

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (previously-amended). A printing machine, comprising:

a drive unit;

rollers having a rotational movement and including a first sheet transport cylinder and a second sheet transport cylinder;

a first sheet gripper mounted on said first sheet transport cylinder;

a second sheet gripper mounted on said second sheet transport cylinder;

said first and second grippers executing cyclical movements having phases and being synchronized with said rotational movement of said rollers and driven, together with said rollers, by said drive unit;

said first and second grippers having respective spring elements, said spring elements being stressed in one of said phases of the cyclic movement and relieved of stress in another of said phases of the cyclic movement, a respective

one of said phases having a first one of said spring elements stressed being synchronized with a respective one of said phases having a second one of said spring elements relieved of stress;

said second sheet transport cylinder having a position defined for accepting a sheet to be printed from the first sheet transport cylinder and a position defined for surrendering the printed sheet and, on a path from said surrender position to said acceptance position, said second sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a movement stressing said spring element assigned thereto and a movement relieving the stress, while said first sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a closing movement relieving the stress on said spring element assigned thereto and a closing movement stressing said spring element.

Claim 2 (twice-amended). The printing machine according to claim 1, including a cam disk for aiding in coupling the cyclic movement of each of the first and second grippers to the rotational movement of the rollers.

Claims 3-6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (currently-amended). The printing machine according to claim ~~4~~ 11, wherein said impression cylinder has a

circumference that is a given number of times the circumference of said feed cylinder and includes a number equal to said given number of said second sheet grippers rotating with said impression cylinder.

Claim 8 (previously-amended). The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein said surrender position is defined so that the length of said path of said sheet gripper from said surrender position to said acceptance position is from at least half to all of the circumferential length of said feed cylinder.

Claim 9 (currently-amended). The printing machine according to claim 4 11, wherein the movement of said second sheet gripper of said impression cylinder is a closing movement for passing through a bottleneck.

Claim 10 (original). The printing machine according to claim 1, including another first functional element formed as a pregripper.

Claim 11 (previously-added). The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein said first sheet transport cylinder is a feed cylinder and said second sheet transport cylinder is an impression cylinder.